

CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY

CUMTUX



VOL. 38, NO. 4 — FALL 2018



EIGHTH GRADE GIRLS AT LEWIS & CLARK (CENTRAL) SCHOOL KICKING THEIR WHITE BUCKS AND SADDLE SHOES ABOUT 1954. *left to right:* JOY THOMAS, BARBARA DAVIS, BECKY STANLEY, KAREN MELLIN, JUDI SIMONSON AND UNKNOWN.

In This Issue ...

Learning about the “Black Sheep in a family can be more fun than researching ordinary but often dull ancestors. Some eight years ago, a man contacted CCHS asking about George Hill, his great grandfather. “Are you sure you want to know?” I thought. He did. Now years later, after trading information, he has a story on You Tube (King George) and we have a story on the Wroten family in this issue.

Sports stories from the 1930s, reprinted in this issue prove that Donald Malarkey was not only a World War II hero, but also a sports hero. Included is a story he wrote for *Cumtux*.

To carry on with the theme of sports, Jerry Olson and Karen Mellin brought in photos for a section “Sixty Years Ago.” We hope to have a story in the future based on Jerry’s athletic career.

—The Editor

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CLATSOP COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
QUARTERLY

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**FRONT COVER: BARBARA DAVIS (LEFT) AND KAREN
MELLIN CA. 1954. 7TH GRADERS AT LEWIS & CLARK
SCHOOL.**

CUMTUX: Chinook jargon:
"To know... to inform"

THE WROTEN FAMILY

by the Editor

Note: The Wroten family name has been spelled in a variety of ways: Wroten, Wrotten, Wraton, Rotan, and Rotten.

THE DAILY MORNING ASTORIAN introduces the readers to the Wroten family in a story printed on November 18, 1894, titled:

A DISGRACEFUL ELEMENT

The Wroten gang was brought into prominence again last night, when one of its members, Willard by name, after participating in a disgraceful row inside the Salvation Army barracks, struck one of the officers a blow on the head, causing the blood to flow freely. Another man who figured in the row, in fact, who started it with his drunken utterances, was Dave Smith, a man who, on account of his business connections, would hardly be expected to be found mixed up in an affair of this kind, which by so doing, has placed him on a par with the first mentioned character.

Of the Wrotens, all that is bad can be said. One of them is now serving a term in the city jail for a cowardly assault on a woman, and the one that figured in last night's row will doubtless soon keep him company. They are among the very worst elements that can be found in the city, and the sooner the stern hand of the law rids the city of their vile presence, the better. Smith ought to know better than to be found instigating such outrageous

proceedings as went on last night, and he deserves no more leniency at the hands of the authorities than does the man Wroten. Such people are not needed in any city.

CHARLES WROTEN

Charles Wroten was the only son in the Wroten family who kept out of trouble. Born in Astoria in 1885 to George and his second wife, Laura, the family first resided near 30th and Grand in Upper Town. He would have attended Adair School until the sixth grade when the family moved closer to his father's workplace at Astoria Iron Works on the edge of the red-light district in Astoria. Charles trained as an apprentice working with his father to learn how to make boilers for steam engines. He was good at this work and continued at it for the rest of his life.

In 1918, at the age of thirty-three, Charles married Nellie Coppage. They had no children. Nellie died six years later, in 1924 and Charles died in 1944. The couple now lie side by side at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton.

Unlike Charles and his father, the other Wroten sons: George, Henry, David, and Willard were well-known for their violent and erratic behavior in the saloons and dance halls in Astoria's red-light district. They helped to shape the reputation of "Swilltown" as it was

known. A descendant of one of their sisters recently described the family as “the scum of the earth.”

WILLARD GERMAIN WROTEN

Willard Wroten was often arrested for getting into drunken brawls, as were his brothers, which may explain why they never had any taxable property. One fight alone in the Casino Saloon on 7th and Bond in July 1896 cost Willard a ten dollar fine, about \$283 today. Because impromptu fights weren’t enough for Willard, he also took part in organized boxing matches.

A typical story about Willard is the following from April 23, 1897, *Daily Morning Astorian*:

A DRUNKEN ROW

A row occurred yesterday evening in Erickson’s [saloon at 7th & Astor]. It seems that Dave and Willard Wroten got on a tear, and in the afternoon, one of them badly punched an inoffensive and sober man. Later in the evening, the manager attempted to put them out of the saloon, and got hit for his pains, but succeeded in putting the men out. Constable Wickman arrived on the scene, got a warrant, and arrested one of the brothers. The other one, Willard, was arrested about 8 o’clock by the combined efforts of Wickman and Policeman Oberg. Both men were confined in the county jail but were released on \$20 cash bail each. The trial will take place this morning before Justice Abercrombie.

JOHN FOX, Pres. and Manager
A. L. FOX, Vice-Pres. and Supt.

F. L. BISHOP, Secretary
ASTORIA SAVINGS BANK, Treas.

Astoria Iron Works

Incorporated April, 1881

GENERAL MACHINISTS, FOUNDRYMEN
PATTERN MAKERS,
BLACKSMITHS AND BOILER MAKERS

BUILDERS OF
Stationary and Marine Engines and Boilers,
Retorts, Coolers, Solder Machines, Dies
and all Cannery Machinery

Castings of Every Description Made to Order

POST OFFICE BOX 43

Astoria, Oregon

ADVERTISEMENT IN THE ASTORIA
REGATTA BOOKLET OF AUGUST, 1899

Willard was the only brother of Charles Wroten to be married—but it was not an ordinary marriage. On September 1, 1889, Willard married Gussie A. Stein in Vancouver, Washington. He was twenty-four, and she claimed to be nineteen but later said she had been younger. In 1900 the couple lived at 359 Astor Street in Astoria, also their place of work. Their employer was Charles F. Wise, who a few years before, burst onto the scene in Astoria, calling himself a “capitalist.” He had a lot of money to invest. How he acquired the money is unknown, as is his earlier history, but he was to become an important part of Willard’s life for many years.

Willard’s and Gussie’s address was at a saloon and dance hall. Also living there were Gussie’s sister Birdie Stein and a whole assortment of people.

CCHS Acc. #19.001.097

1900 FEDERAL CENSUS FOR CLATSOP COUNTY
359 ASTOR STREET

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>BIRTH PLACE</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>
Charles Wise.....	34.....	CA.....	Saloon Keeper
Mary Riley.....	33.....	CA.....	Female Boarding
John Bainbridge.....	21.....	CA.....	Musician
Herbert H. Hibbo.....	61.....	KS.....	Cigar Dealer
Willard Wroten.....	25.....	MD.....	Laborer
Gerald M. Edward.....	24.....	IO.....	Musician
Gussie Stein.....	19.....	CA.....	Female Boarding
Dora Ellis.....	25.....	OR.....	Female Boarding
Trixie Jones.....	19.....	CA.....	Female Boarding
Sybil Wilson.....	19.....	MN.....	Female Boarding
Bertie Stein.....	21.....	CA.....	Female Boarding
Jessie Cheshire.....	22.....	OR.....	Musician
Teddy O'Rourke.....	26.....	IRELAND.....	Musician
Eva Allen.....	19.....	WA.....	Female Boarding
Dollie Crosby.....	25.....	OR.....	Female Boarding
Minnie Henry.....	24.....	WA.....	Female Boarding
May Smith.....	22.....	OR.....	Female Boarding
Nora Baker.....	26.....	MO.....	Female Boarding

FIG. 1

They are listed all together on the 1900 census: musicians, bartenders, and women described as “female boarding,” a term used for prostitutes who worked for the saloon owner, Charles Wise.

Everyone on this list (Fig. 1) is marked as “single” (not married, divorced, or widowed) including Willard and his wife Gussie Stein, who went by her maiden name. (Charles Wise, operator of the saloon and dance hall

later married the sister Birdie/Bertie Stein.)

Two years later, the *Morning Astorian* of August 12, 1902, reported:

Judge Nelson received \$55 yesterday afternoon to be used for Astoria's welfare. It was left by six different folk who failed to show up at police court." Among them was W. Wroten arrested for fighting.

One of the big cases filed in Clatsop County was the attempted murder of Paddy Lynch by Otto Skibbe in March

1903. As Willard Wroten was on hand to see the events unfold, he served as a witness in the case. Paddy Lynch was one of the scoundrels of Swilltown involved in numerous shanghaiing cases.

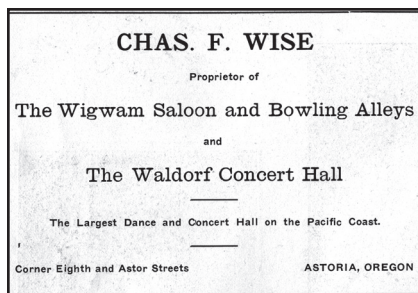
Then June 26, 1903, *The Weekly Oregon Statesman* reported:

ASTORIA, Ore., June 24,—E.D. Brooks has filed a suit in the circuit court against Willard Wroten and Charles Wise for the recovery of \$5,100 damages. The complaint alleges that on February 14, 1903, the defendant Wroten assaulted and beat the plaintiff in the Waldorf saloon, breaking his jaw in two places, knocking out two of his teeth, and wounding him in the face, head, and body; that defendant Wise is owner of the Waldorf saloon, was present at the time of the assault, and aided and abetted in the commission of the act. Of the amount asked for, \$100 is for medical attendance and \$5,000 for disfigurement, pain, humiliation, and mental anguish suffered by the plaintiff as the result of the beating.

On July 21, 1903, Willard was mentioned in an article about a baseball game along with Jesse Cheshire who is also on the 1900 census as a co-resident with Willard in a house of prostitution.

The Morning Astorian Tuesday, July 21, 1903.

Cathlamet defeated the Brewery Co's team on the A.F.C. grounds Sunday by a score of 16 to 8. Farrell and McDermott officiated for the visitors as battery and Wroten



ADVERTISEMENT IN THE 1905 FIRE
DEPARTMENT SOUVENIR BOOKLET.

and Cheshire did the honors for the local team. The game was not marked by any brilliant features. [A. F. C. is Astoria Football Club, Battery refers to batter and pitcher.]

For the next several years, Willard Wroten's name frequently appeared in the sports columns of the *Astoria* and *Oregonian* newspapers about baseball in which his ability to hit the ball was praised. Willard, however, was still drinking heavily.

On January 31, 1905, *Morning Astorian*, page 5 noted:

Andrew Mattson of Aberdeen is in the city, the guest of Sheriff Linville. Mattson arrived in the city last week and on Sunday night started out to see the elephant. He became infatuated with William [Willard] Wroten and started in to carve him. He was arraigned in the justice court on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon, and the examination was set for tomorrow in default of \$250 bail. He is living off the county and probably will for some time." ["Seeing the elephant" is an expression that means seeing the world at a high cost. An example was the overwhelming



SWILLTOWN'S SHORT-LIVED "PRIDE OF ASTORIA" BASEBALL TEAM (AN IRONIC NAME) INCLUDED WILLARD WROTEN, CROUCHING AT CENTER LEFT, JESSIE CHESHIRE, CENTER RIGHT, AND IN A SUIT IN THE BACK IS JACK (LAHTI) BAY, LATER THE HUSBAND OF ANNA BAY, ASTORIA'S WELL-KNOWN MADAM, MENTIONED IN DON MALARKEY'S STORY IN THIS ISSUE.

JANUARY–JUNE, 1907 ASTORIA ARREST RECORDS FOR CHARLES WISE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>VIOLATION</u>	<u>BAIL</u>	<u>OUTCOME</u>
Jan 6 1907.....	Running dance hall	\$50.....	BF
Jan 11, 1907.....	Gambling	\$25.....	BF
Jan 11, 1907.....	Gambling	\$25.....	BF
April 8, 1907	Running dance hall	\$50.....	BF
May 8, 1907	Running dance hall	\$5.....	BF
May 17, 1907.....	Forcibly defying officer.....		CD
May 17, 1907.....	Running dance hall	\$25.....	paid fine
May 18, 1907	Running dance hall		CD
May 19, 1907.....	Running dance hall		CD
Perhaps not surprisingly...			
June 20, 1907.....	Drunk.....	\$5.....	BF

(BF is Bail Forfeited. Charles Wise paid the bail money and walked away, didn't fight the case. CD is case dismissed)

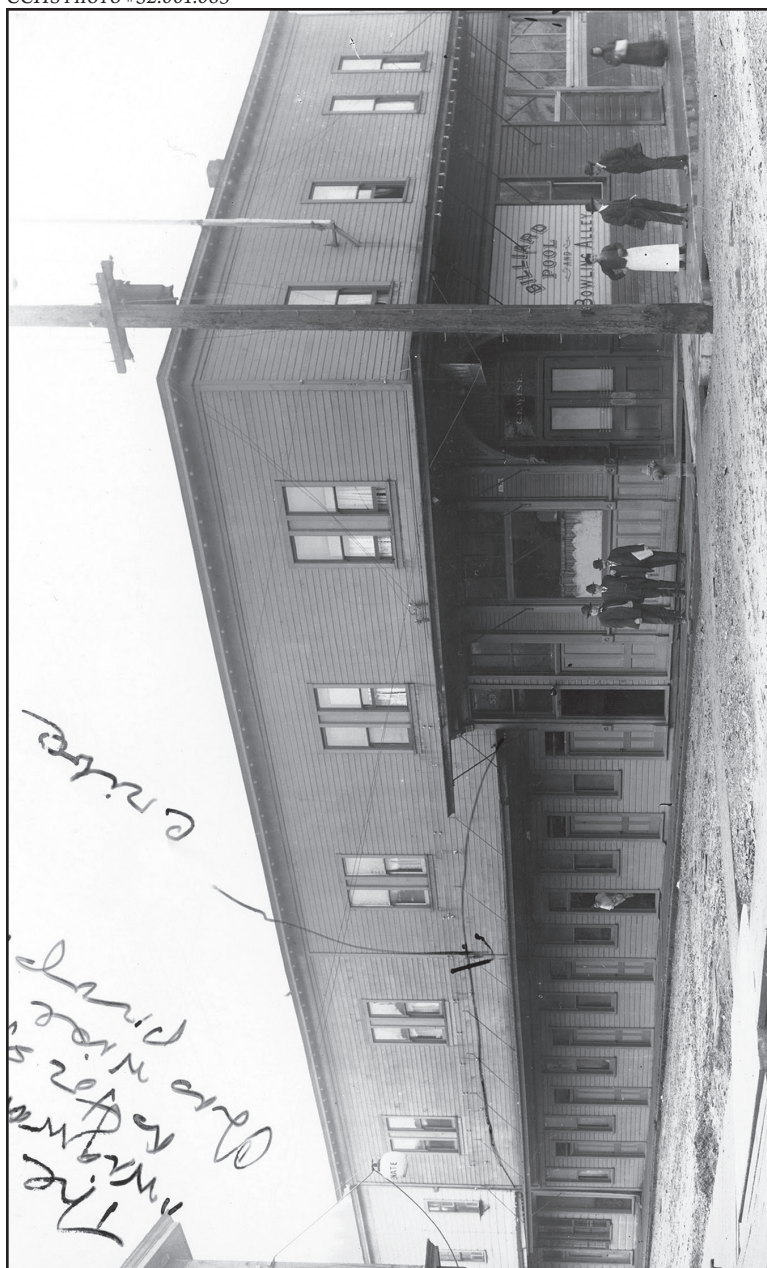
FIG. 2

desire that drove people to make a three-month trek across the Plains on foot to make a home in the West.]

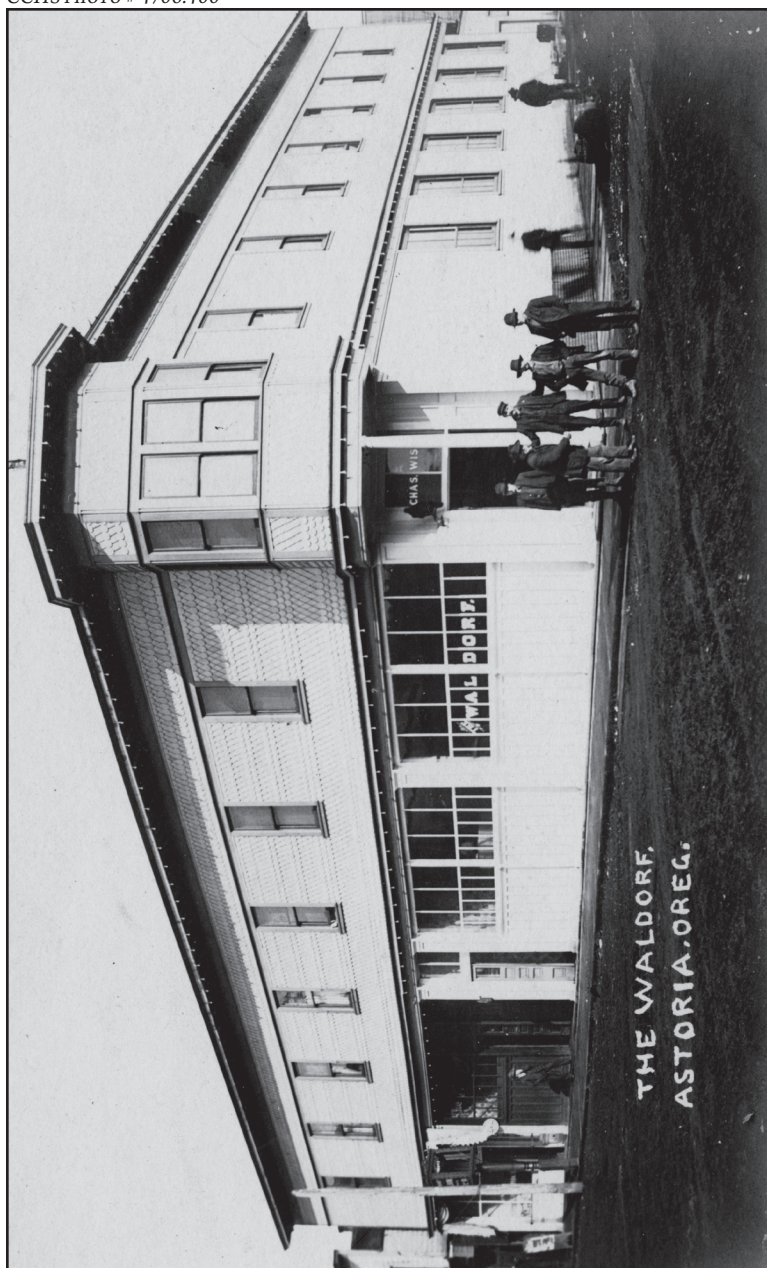
Willard Wroten continued his working and friendly relationship with Charles F. Wise. For a long time, Charles F. Wise was able to operate his businesses without being hampered by the police, but by 1907 Astoria residents, disturbed by the mysterious death of seventeen-year-old Blanche Day, a worker in the Waldorf Dance Hall in January 1907 and stories of underage girls forced to work as prostitutes, demanded stricter laws regarding dance halls be passed in Astoria. (See the coroner's report on

Blanche Day elsewhere in this issue.) The police began targeting the businesses of Charles Wise. Fig. 2 shows a list of arrests for Charles Wise from the first half of 1907 compiled from the police records at the Heritage Museum

On March 1, 1907, a story was printed in *The Morning Astorian* about the theft of money by employees of the Waldorf Concert Hall, Julius Wilbur, William Stewart and Mabel Grant, from a young man from Iowa who just arrived in the city. Charles Wise paid \$400 bail money for each of his three workers. This was at the same time that Wise was trying to find new ways to entice people to his businesses by bringing in vaudeville performers and



THE WIGWAM SALOON, SW CORNER OF 8TH AND ASTOR STREETS.



THE WALDORF SALOON, ON THE NW CORNER OF 8TH AND ASTOR STREETS.



CHARLES WISE AND OTHERS OUTSIDE OF HIS SALOON, THE WALDORF, CA. 1900.
left to right: UNIDENTIFIED, WILLARD HILL - SON OF GEORGE HILL, UNIDENTIFIED, PAT KENNEY, UNIDENTIFIED, CHARLES WISE, THREE UNIDENTIFIED MEN (AND DOG), AND WILLARD WROTEN - AT FAR RIGHT.

the early forms of films, spending a lot of money advertising his businesses in every issue of the newspaper.

The *Morning Astorian* of July 28, 1907, page five posted this news:

WALDORF CLOSES

Manager Charles F. Wise of the Waldorf theater announced last night that at 12:00 when the place closed, under the new regulations that it was the last of the Waldorf as far as he was concerned and that he would never open it again. The employees were all paid off, and the lights turned out.

Willard, who attached his star to that of Wise, also became a target of those who wanted to shut down Swilltown's illegal operations. They did it by using a new law against vagrants.

On December 31, 1907, page five of the *Morning Astorian*:

THE POLICE COURT—

The municipal court had a short session yesterday afternoon, but those offenders of the city's ordinances appearing before Judge Anderson. One Willard Wroten appeared by his attorney, H. Brownell, and asked for a continuance of the case until today at 2 o'clock. Wroten is charged with resorting in and about a house of ill-fame. Two young men who had looked too industriously upon colored and intoxicating waters were each sentenced to two days in the city's bastille, and owing to the fact that they had already been the guests of Chief Gammal for two days their fines were remitted.[This

would have taken place in what is now the Heritage Museum, 16th & Exchange.]

The following year Willard moved to Portland to operate a saloon of his own and found temporary success in the big town according to the *Oregon Daily Journal* of August 23, 1908:

COUNCIL AFTER SALOON LICENSE PROPRIETOR OF CLUB ALLEGED TO HAVE SOLD LIQUOR TO YOUNG GIRLS.

W. Wroten, proprietor of the Club Saloon, situated below Merrill's hall, will be called before the council tomorrow and compelled to show cause why his license should not be revoked, the specific charge against the saloon keeper being that he sold beer to two minor girls who had been attending the dances at Merrill's hall. The charges were brought by Mrs. Lola G. Baldwin, city detective, who secured evidence against Wroten, which resulted in Judge Van Zante holding the man to the grand jury.

Mrs. Baldwin appeared before the liquor license committee yesterday and told of sights and scenes she had witnessed in the room adjoining the saloon with the result that the councilmen grew wrathful and were ready to revoke Wroten's license on the spot, but finally decided to give the man a chance before doing so.

According to the story told by Mrs. Baldwin, the saloon has an entrance leading from the hall through which patrons of the dances at Merrill's hall pass and that she saw the doorway used

on more than one occasion. Mrs. Baldwin said that upon entering the room, she saw a girl half sitting on a chair and half reclining in the arms of two men. The girl had one arm around the neck of one man in a loving embrace while the party drank their beer and had a good time in general. One of the men, Mrs. Baldwin declares, was the bartender.

When the councilmen heard the evidence, they declared that it was with such places as these that the council should take immediate and drastic action. A few revocations they declared would have a salutary effect, and Councilman Baker said that it would be a wise provision if the council prohibited saloons in buildings or adjoining buildings used as dance halls.

Mrs. Baldwin submitted a transcript of the evidence taken at the municipal court in which the girls, one 17 and the other 19, testified that they had received beer at Wroten's place, and from the evidence before the liquor license committee yesterday it appeared that it was quite the common thing for girls attending the dances to drop downstairs into the saloon for beer and other drinks.

At first, the members of the committee decided that they would summon Wroten before the committee at its next meeting but ultimately decided that the time would be too long and voted to cite Wroten before the council tomorrow."

On August 26, 1908, *Oregonian*, page ten, image ten, a related story in the newspaper puts some responsibility for

the saloon on the Weinhard Brewery Company for renting the saloon to Willard Wroten:

FRED T. MERRILL REPLIES SAYS HE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR WROTEN'S SALOON.

Fred T. Merrill takes exceptions to the reference made by Mrs. Lola G. Baldwin, chief of the city bureau for protection of young girls and women, in which she said that W. Wroten's saloon is located 'in Merrill's Hall.' She was speaking before the liquor license committee of the City Council, in an effort to secure revocation of the license of the saloon in question.

Mr. Merrill made the following statement: "It is an injustice to Professor Berry, who conducts the dancing academy in Merrill's Hall, also an injustice to the Merrill Building, as well as to myself, for the newspapers and Mrs. Baldwin to constantly refer to the 'dancing academy,' 'Merrill's Hall.' The Merrill Building,' every time reference is made to the saloon in that building.

"The facts in the case are that the store room was rented to Keating & Flood for a bowling alley, but, wishing to make more money out of it, they divided up the room and rented a saloon to the Weinhard Brewery Company.

"I have constantly objected to this saloon and the character of the same, both to the tenant, to Keating & Flood, to Weinhard's Brewery and to the Police Department, threatening to go before the Council and have the license revoked if they did not change the character of

the place, close the side door, or remove the place entirely. Professor Berry does not allow his pupils or ladies or girls to leave the hall during the progress of the dances unless they put on their wraps and leave for good, and he is not responsible for them after they leave the hall, and they are just as liable to go to a hundred other places as they are to visit the Wroten resort known as the Club Café.

"I am sick and tired of getting roasted for other's sins. We have enough of our own to answer for."

In spite of their determination to punish him, Willard Wroten was acquitted by a grand jury of allowing a minor female in his saloon.

From 1910 to 1914, Willard Wroten was again in Astoria working as a bartender for Charles F. Wise who was back in business. During these years, Wise showed off his wealth by the purchase of boats he raced in the Astoria Regatta, occasionally taking the prize for speed and agility.

PROHIBITION

Locally and nationally, a move to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages was growing, threatening his livelihood. In 1914, it came up for a vote. An official count in Oregon showed that Clatsop County was the only county listed in the "wet" column, but by a surplus of only fifty-four votes, Prohibition—yes 2,135; no, 2,189 according to the November 7, 1914, *Astoria Daily Budget*. The law was passed in Oregon and two other states.

On December 22, 1915, headlines in the *Budget* shouted:

SALOON MEN WILL SCATTER JANUARY 1ST

DRY SEASON IN ASTORIA WILL BRING MANY CHANGES

CALIFORNIA MECCA FOR LIQUOR MEN

MANY SOFT DRINK ESTABLISHMENTS SCHEDULED

PROMINENT CORNERS IN CITY WILL BE FOR RENT— BAR FIXTURES GOING AT BARGAINS—PEACEFUL ENDING IS PREDICTED DECEMBER 31.

What are the liquor dealers going to do in Astoria after January 1? The question has been asked a thousand times since the state went dry and but little is known just what the dark days will bring forth.

In fact, most of the saloon men do not know themselves just what the future has in store for them. Watchful waiting will be the policy... Up and down the line are some good locations that will be for rent, possibly at a reduced price. Thousands of dollars-worth of fixtures will be thrown on the market at bargain prices. Premises owned and controlled by the occupants will be offered for sale to the highest bidder; others will continue with little shops where soft drinks and nearbeer will be served. Some have designs on starting corner groceries...

The 1915 Astoria City Directory lists Willard as working as a bartender and living with Gussie at 268 Bond, the same address given for Charles and Birdie Wise. That may have been the situation at the end of 1914, but both couples soon took off to California to see what opportunities might arise. They are listed as a single household in the Sacramento, California Voters' Registration for 1916 to 1918: Charles Wise, a clerk, and Mrs. Birdie Wise, a housewife, Willard G. Wroten, a clerk, and his wife Mrs. Gussie Wroten, housewife. One report says that Charles Wise took a job at a penitentiary.

With Germany at war with England and France, it began to look as though the U. S. would soon be involved. A survey of America's manpower was needed, beginning with the 1918 draft registration which gives valuable information about the male population including a description of Willard: medium height and build, dark brown hair, hazel eyes. He was still living in Sacramento, claiming now his health was poor on account of heart trouble and asthma and that he had last been working as a watchman for the Southern Pacific Railway but had not been employed for a year. In 1919 Willard rallied for a while, but died in Sacramento on April 21, 1919, at the age of forty-four. He was buried at the Odd Fellows Lawn Cemetery in Sacramento. That same year National Prohibition took effect.

THE STEIN GIRLS

After Willard's death, Gussie moved to Raymond, Washington, operating a rooming house. According to the 1930 census, Gussie reported that she had been married at the age of fifteen and was schooled only through the eighth grade. In 1940, she was still in Raymond, Washington. Gussie died in 1952 and was buried at Fern Hill Cemetery in Menlo Park, Pacific County. Back in 1913, Gussie's sister Birdie had been married to Charles Wise. Their marriage ended after only a few years. She married again.

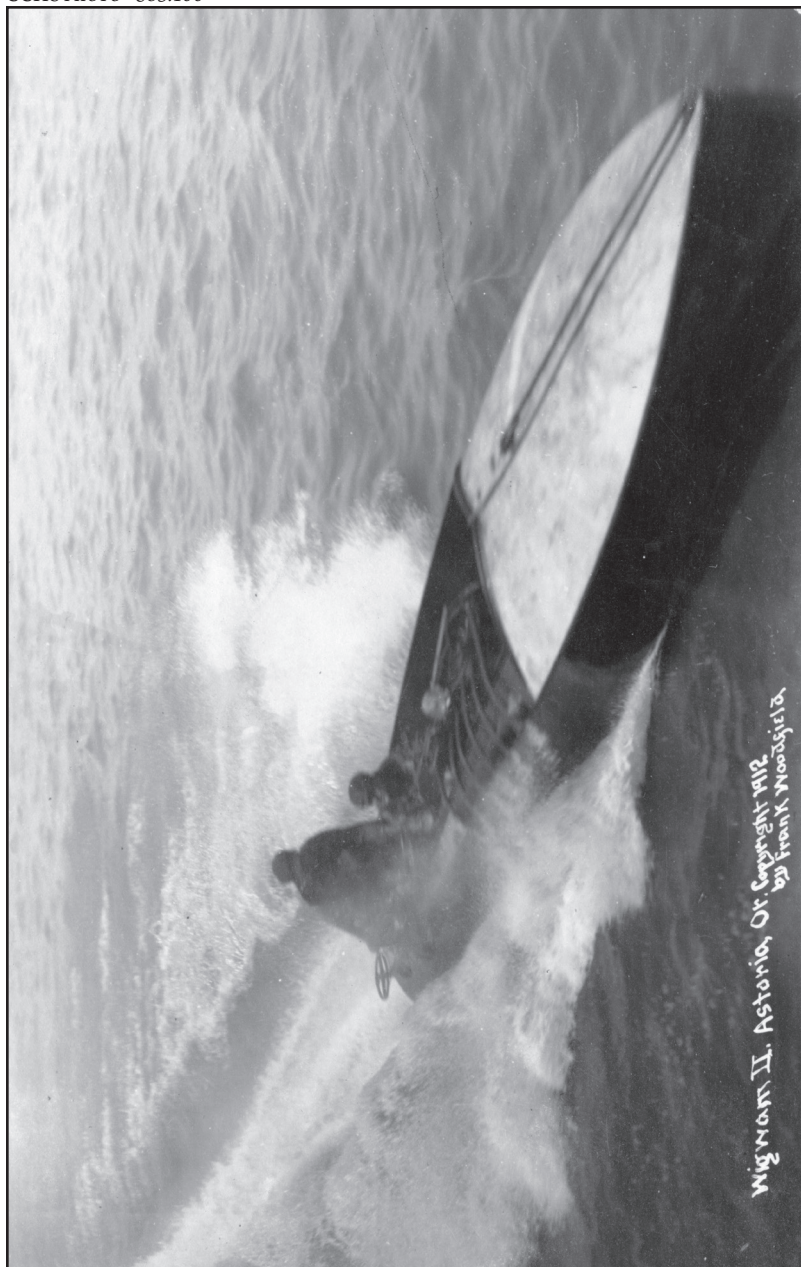
CHARLES WISE

Charles Wise returned to Astoria. He lived for some time in the Arlington Hotel, now the Methodist church's parking lot on the northeast corner of 11th and Franklin. The 1930 census shows him as sixty-five years of age, working at odd jobs. One job was for Pat Kenney in his Imperial Cigar Store on the north side of Commercial Street half way between 12th and 14th streets.

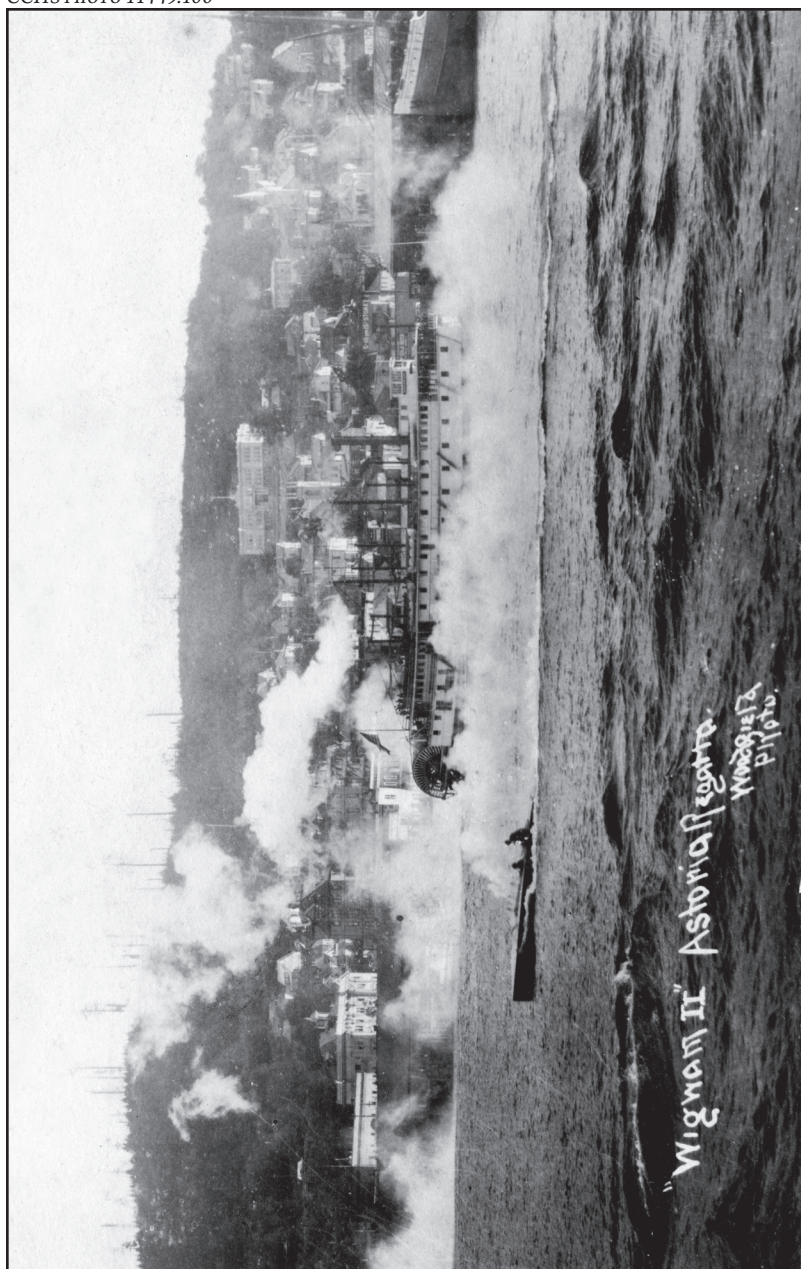
On the back of a photo of a racing boat belonging to Charles Wise is the ironic statement that Charles Wise spent his last days at the County Home, also known as the "Poor Farm" located near the present Clatsop County fairgrounds. No longer a "capitalist," Charles Wise died in 1938 and was buried quietly in Greenwood Cemetery. Few may have remembered the impact he had on shaping the culture of vice in Astoria's Swilltown.



THE WIGWAM AND THE ASTOR DURING THE 1911 ASTORIA REGATTA.



THE WIGWAM II, 1912 ASTORIA REGATTA.



THE WIGWAM II WITH ASTORIA IN THE BACKGROUND. 1912 REGATTA



MEMBERS OF THE ASTORIA POLICE DEPARTMENT OUTSIDE THE NEW CITY HALL (NOW THE HERITAGE MUSEUM) ABOUT 1905.

GEORGE WROTEN, JR.

The oldest son of George Wroten, Sr. and full brother of Willard Wroten was George Wroten, Jr. who was born in 1857. He worked in saloons on Astor Street from time to time. He was judged insane in November 1899 and was sent to the asylum in Salem. He appears to have been released but was returned and died there in 1919.

HENRY (HARRY) WROTEN

From the *Daily Morning Astorian*, October 8, 1889, page three:

Yesterday morning a waiter named Henry Wroten left the Parker house restaurant taking with him the nights' receipts amounting to between seven and ten dollars. Last evening the proprietor, Mr.

Stone, was bewailing the loss of the money when who should walk into the restaurant, but the said Wroten; after being accused of taking the money he said the cook told him he would never get his money, so he helped himself.

From April 18, 1894, page three, *Daily Morning Astorian*:

Lottie Wroten [unknown who she is] and Harry [Henry] Wroten filled themselves with red paint early yesterday morning and became so billowy and noisy that Officer Seafeldt was compelled to accompany them to the station. The usual fine was the result of their hearing before the police judge. ["Red paint" is a reference to alcoholic liquor.]

From the November 13, 1894, *Daily Morning Astorian*, page four:



THE LOUVRE SALOON AND CONCERT HALL OWNED BY A. ERICKSON WAS LOCATED AT THE SW CORNER OF 7TH AND MARINE DRIVE

Henry Wroten was before Judge Osburn yesterday charged with assault and battery on Dessie Brown, a frail denizen of the burnt district [meaning a prostitute]. He now languishes in jail, and this morning will probably go to work on the street. He is an old offender and has been before the police judge on numerous occasions. When he first started out, his brutal work was confined to men, but of late, he has been in the habit of maltreating women. His last affair was a most brutal one, and when Judge Osburn fined him \$50, there was not a man present, unless it be the prisoner himself, but thought the sentence too light. It seems that Wroten and the girl were shaking dice, and she took offense at certain names which he persisted in calling her. The quarrel terminated in an encounter in which Wroten struck the

girl a downward blow in the face, breaking her nose and otherwise bruising her badly." Henry said he would die first before he went to work on the streets to pay off the fine.

Then on Nov. 18, 1894, *Daily Morning Astorian*, page four was this follow-up:

Henry Wroten, who was consigned to the dark cell in the city jail Thursday and given a diet of bread and water, for refusing to go to work on the streets, recovered sufficiently from his obstinate fit by yesterday morning to humbly agree to earn a better fare on the public highways.

Henry signed the Register of Electors in 1900, in order to vote, signing his name by putting down an "X." He called himself a "floor manager" which was



WOODEN BRIDGE OVER THE WALLUSKI RIVER TOWARDS THE OLD COUNTY HOME, ALSO KNOWN AS "THE POOR FARM," WHERE DANCE HALL OPERATOR CHARLES WISE SPENT HIS LAST DAYS.

probably a bouncer; he was thirty-two, five feet and three inches, had a dark complexion with black eyes, a lame right foot, and weighed 164 pounds. On later city directories he was listed as a restaurant worker and a cook.

His death notice was in the September 25, 1908, *Astoria Daily Budget*:

Henry W. Wroten, who has been a resident of this city for a number of years, died this morning of spinal meningitis after a short illness. As the disease is recognized as a contagious one, his funeral was held privately this afternoon and the body interred in Greenwood cemetery. He was a native of Maryland, 41 years of age and unmarried.

DAVE WROTEN

The biggest puzzle about Dave Wroten was when he died.

October 5, 1890, *Morning Astorian*, page three:

Dave Wroten, who accidentally shot himself early Friday morning was still alive at a late hour last night. Dr. Estes, the attending physician, reported that the man had improved somewhat during the day but as nightfall came on, began sinking and he did not think that the man would live through the night.

October 10, 1890, *Weekly Oregon Statesman*, Salem, Oregon:

A DRUNKEN FELLOW HANDLING A REVOLVER SHOTS HIMSELF

Astoria, Oct. 3, 1890—While Dave Wroten, a dissolute fellow,

about twenty years of age, was handling a revolver in a saloon this morning, the weapon was accidentally discharged, and the ball entered his abdomen, producing a wound from which he died to-night.

October 6, 1890, *DMA*:

Dave Wroten, the young man who accidentally shot himself a few days ago is still alive, but the chances for life are against him. Dr. Estes, the attending surgeon, stated yesterday that his patient was better, but he had small hopes of his recovery.

October 16, 1890, *The Enterprise*, Oregon City, page three:

Dave Wroten, the Astoria young man who accidentally shot himself in the abdomen several nights ago, is now in a fair way to recover, though his wound was a most serious one. He is kept under the influence of opiates, so suffers but little pain. The bullet has not yet been located, and the chances are that it will not be found at all.

On January 3, 1893, Dave was well enough to be arrested on a concealed weapons charge.

A summary of a court case involving Dave Wroten can be found in one of the Astoria Police record books at the Heritage Museum: On a complaint filed January 27th, 1893, a warrant of arrest was filed and endorsed by A. Seefeldt on the part of the State for Georgie Smith, Frankie Peterson, and Al Slade. No one appeared for

the Defendant. C. J. Curtis presented for the State. The defendant was represented by himself and declared himself to be Not Guilty. Kleber Osburn was the police judge. David was charged with the crime of assault and battery, and he was ordered to pay a fine of thirty dollars. And who was this victim, Al Slade? His name appears in a story from the *Oregonian* in 1910 about Slade procuring a sixteen-year-old girl for prostitution. He had served a previous sentence for aiding a dissolute woman in the robbery of a drugged victim, the story said.

The *DMA* of April 23, 1897, printed an article titled "A Drunken Row" about Dave and his brother Willard, see under Willard Wroten.

June 10, 1898, page four, *DMA*:

Dave Wroten, who was sentenced to serve 30 days by the justice court for assault and battery on a woman, has been released, the payment of the balance of his fine, \$24, having been made.

August 13, 1898, *DMA*, Saturday:

Business on the Bowery was brisk for a while Thursday night and a large aggregation of drunks in the police court yesterday was the result. Officer Settlemeyer whose beat is in that portion of the town, made four trips to the police station during the night, taking or rather carrying a drunk there each time. They gave the names of Fred Ross, John Hansen, Dave Wroten, and John Van Valkenburg, and were fined \$5 each. William Smith forfeited \$5 for the same offense.

Peter Carlson, an old offender, was fined \$10, with the alternative of leaving town. City Attorney Allen cautioned him to be sure and leave the city, or serve about six months' sentence in jail, which is hanging over the head of the unfortunate Peter."

On March 15, 1902, Dave was fined forty dollars for vagrancy, which was suspended if he leaves town.

The *Morning Astorian* September 18, 1902:

Tuesday evening D. Wroten was arrested on a complaint sworn to by H.B. Parker, charging him with trespass. The prisoner had been using a vacant building on Astor street, belonging to Mr. Parker for sleeping purposes. He was arraigned before Judge Nelson yesterday and fined \$25.

Police Records: Nov. 7, 1902, disorderly, ten dollar fine.

The *Oregon Daily Journal*, November 28, 1903:

CAPTURE WROTTEN AT ASTORIA

David Wrotten, formerly a bartender at Hills' saloon, Fourth and Taylor streets [in Portland] was arrested at Astoria yesterday. This morning he was brought back to Portland for trial. In a complaint signed by A. W. Carter, he is charged with stealing \$9 from his employers Wednesday night. The day following Detective Simmons telephoned to Astoria. Wrotten was arraigned, and his case was continued.

Morning Oregonian January 31, 1905, page seven:

CRIPPLES FIGHT WITH WEAPONS.

ASTORIA, Or., Jan. 30.—(Special.)—Andrew Mattson, who arrived a few days ago from Aberdeen was arraigned in Justice Goodman's court, charged with assault with a dangerous weapon on David Wroten, and was committed to the County Jail, in default of \$250 bonds.

The two men, both cripples, had an altercation in a downtown resort at an early hour yesterday morning, and Wroten struck Mattson with a cane. Mattson then drew his pocket knife and cut Wroten in the neck, on the chin, and on the arm. None of the wounds are dangerous.

Local newspapers had their own take on the fight. Feb. 2, 1905, page two *Morning Astorian*:

ANDY JUGGED.

Andrew Mattson was yesterday bound over to the circuit court in the sum of \$1,000 by Justice Goodman, in default of which amount Mattson was remanded to the custody of the sheriff and is lodged in the county jail.

On Saturday night, Mattson was drunk, and David Wroten was also drunk. They got together. Just how the collision occurred was not made clear, but Wroten had a companion who swore as valiantly as he, and in the same direction, so Andy went to the bastille. David averred that he was crossing the street in the classic shades of Swilltown, when Mattson loomed

in front of him, jarred into him, struck him with mailed fist, and then proceeded to dissect his corporeal manifestation with a tulwar, bolo, cleaver, and dah, rapier or pocket knife, and that portions of his person were so exposed to the air that he was near to taking cold, and bathing had to be resorted to.

The court shuddered, and handed the desperate Andy his. Andrew conceded that he could not have gracefully carry a bun of such proportions as he had on the Sabbath, but he thought he had provocation.

Neither party to the fracas has been missed in social circles, and probably never would have been if both had had knives, and longer ones. [Note: The above is the actual wording in the newspaper.]

On February 22, 1905, the *Oregonian* reported that District Attorney Allen returned a not-true bill in the case against Andrew Mattson charged with assault with a dangerous weapon. Dave remained a resident of Swilltown until the early 1920s when he moved to Klamath County.

In January 1925, Dave was sentenced to ten years at the Oregon State Penitentiary, from Clatsop County for the crime of rape. He did not have to serve long.

January 12, 1926, *Daily Capital Journal*, Salem Oregon, page seven:

Dave Wroten, inmate of the state penitentiary, died at 3 o'clock this morning. He was received at the penitentiary on June 20 this year, being committed from Klamath

county, where he was convicted on a statutory charge. His sentence was for 10 years. He was 55 years of age. His people at Astoria have been notified of his death.

From the Willamette Valley Genealogical Society's Publication "Willamette Valley Death Records."

Dave Wroten, born in 1871 in Maryland, a former resident of Astoria, died January 12, 1926, in the penitentiary from cancer of the stomach. His body was sent to a medical school in Portland after his death.

Where does the blame for the anti-social behavior of the children of this family lie? Did it lie with the father?

Morning Astorian April 4, 1906.

GEORGE WROTEN, SR.

Died Last Night.—After eight days of intense suffering from blood poisoning and at 8:20 o'clock last evening, George W. Roten died at his home, 278 Bond street. Mr. Roten had attained to the advanced age of 71 years, twenty-three of which he has spent in the city of Astoria, where he was well known and thoroughly well liked for many manly and kindly characteristics. He leaves a widow and nine grown children to mourn his demise. Mr. Roten was a native of Virginia and came West many years ago. Arrangements for his funeral and interment will be made today and announced in these columns tomorrow.

...continued on page 26



THE 1958-1959 PEPSTERS AND RALLY SQUAD GIVE THE TEAM
*left to right, standing and sitting: COACH JERRY MOSBY; JOYCE WILSON AND GORDON SCOTT; JA
 AND MICHAEL TARABOCHIA; KATHY HUBBEL AND JOHN WAGNER; JO ANN STORAASLI AND
 JOCELYN MADDOX AND BRUCE HOFFMAN; SONJA I*



AM GOOD LUCK CHARMS BEFORE THE STATE TOURNAMENT.

; JAN ISAACSON AND DAVE HELLBERT; JULIE HOARE AND BRIAN PAASO; KAREN L. PETERSON AND DICK SEPPA; KAREN MELLIN AND TOM GRAVES; JUDITH SIMONSON AND LARRY HILL; JA NORGAAARD AND JAMES JOHNSON. ...see page 40

COURTESY OF JASON WEEKLY



AT FAR LEFT IS GEORGE HILL, OPERATOR OF BATH HOUSES AND DANCE HALLS IN ASTORIA.

4th row: CHARLES, UNKNOWN, SUSAN, UNKNOWN, ROSE. 3rd row: MAUD, WILLARD, B'S HUSBAND, UNKNOWN, EDWARD. 2nd row: UNKNOWN, BESSIE, NORA, UNKNOWN, DAISY, far right GEORGE AND LAURA WROTEN.



THE GEORGE HILL AND SUSAN WROTEN HILL FAMILY.

SUSAN, GEORGE, NORA, CHARLES, DAISY (HOLDING GEORGE), AND EDWARD.

George Wroten was buried at Greenwood Cemetery as J. Wroten. A few years later, his second wife Laura was laid beside him. No stones mark their graves.

MANLY VIRTUES OR OFFENSES?

The man described in the obituary hardly sounds like the father of such a rough bunch of people, but newspapers from his old home in Baltimore, Maryland reveal some details of his earlier years. They start in 1859 and are summarized.

On August 15, 1859, nine men, including George Roten rioted in a street in Baltimore, breaking windows, assaulting people, resisting, kicking and choking the police. They had gone to Rossmark's brewery and attempted to get into the cellar for beer. Baker,

an employee at the brewery, pushed Roten out. Mrs. Baker heard the noise, running to see what the matter was. Roten knocked her down and tried three times to fire his revolver at her and her husband. Later George Roten told his two friends that he was going to burn the building down. The two buddies later claimed they wanted to leave but were scared of Roten who started a fire causing the whole place to go up in flames. A few months later George "Roten" robbed a hardware store of fifty-seven dollars-worth of goods. He was captured and imprisoned and served about ten years for various crimes.

Meanwhile, the Civil War was ravaging the eastern states. George Wroten's (first) wife Elizabeth Allen Wroten and their three small children

who were left at home, were forced to move into the home of her parents, who still had seven children of their own to support on the father's meager wages as a watchman. After George was released from prison, he and Elizabeth had more children and then divorced. George married again, bringing his family to Astoria where the children were caught in a never ending cycle of drunkenness and violence.

THE WROTEN FAMILY LISTING

George T. (W.) Wroten

b. March 1834 VA, d. 1906 OR
1st wife: Elizabeth (Allen) Wroten,

b. 1830 MD

Sarah E.

b. 1855 MD

Susan A.

b. 1855 MD, married

George Hill, d. 1918 OR

George M.

b. 1857 or 58 MD, d. OR

Henry W.

b. 1868 MD, d. OR

Mary Louisa Ann

b. 1869 MD

David

b. 1871 MD, d. 1926 OR

Willard Germain

b. 1874 MD, d. 1919 CA

2nd wife Laura Leutz Wentworth

b. 1847 Germany (had seven children only two still alive in 1910),
d. 1914

George Wroten's Step Children:

Margaret Wentworth

b. 1866 MD

George Wentworth

b. 1869 MD

Caroline Wentworth

b. 1870 MD

John Wentworth

b. 1873 MD

George Wroten's Children by the second wife:

Charles Wroten

b. 1885 OR, d. 1944 OR

Laura Elizabeth Wroten

b. 1887 OR, d. 1890

For more on the Wroten family, see the video titled "King George." at www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJrxkUGrkMk. This George is the son-in-law of George Wroten, George Hill, who operated bath houses and dance halls and later sold real estate.

Thanks to Jason Weekly who initiated this research into his family. Jason's YouTube video is a humerous telling of his genealogical discoveries. 🍷

YOUNG GIRL IN TROUBLE SOON TO BECOME A MOTHER IN A PRISON CELL SEVERAL GOOD CHRISTIAN WOMEN WILL ENDEAVOR TO HAVE HER RELEASED.

SOMETHING OVER A month ago, May Ross, young, but already a debauched and ruined girl, a recent accession to the degraded elements of Swilltown, was arrested and taken before Police Judge Osburn on a charge of larceny, the stealing of some cheap and tawdry article of dress from a sister in misfortune [another prostitute]. The evidence of her crime being sufficient, she was held over for trial and lodged in the county jail.

So far, all was right and regular. The girl is doubtless guilty, and there was no other course to pursue, but we do have something to say in criticism of the treatment this wretched victim of ignorance and folly has received in the county jail.

Perhaps the county officials are not at fault, but we will state the circumstances and let the public judge. In the first place May Ross, sunk and contaminated as she is, cannot have long passed the happy age of childhood, as we reckon the growth of young girls in better and brighter spheres of life. She cannot be more than sixteen years of age, and she is probably not that. She

has had few, if any, advantages in the way of education and general bringing up, as her widowed mother is a poor laboring woman, making a scant living by the hard drudgery of the wash tub.

To a girl so situated temptation is inevitable and too often successful, and the erring May, having made the first false step, and having neither experience or culture to sustain her in her career of vice, dropped at once to the lowest depths and speedily became an abused and wretched outcast, the old, old story of many a poor girl's fall.

But there is a sadder truth to divulge. This miserable and pitiable waif of the slums is soon to become a mother! Some good Christian ladies of the city, among them the wife of a prominent businessman and a popular minister, have taken an interest in the case and visited the girl in prison. The room in which she is confined has no fire in it and receives its only warmth from the deputies' room adjoining when he leaves the door open. The covering of her bed is not clean, and the girl herself has been wearing the same dirty old wrapper for a month.

Now the officials may not be to blame for these things, but there is something else. The visits of the ladies mentioned have not seemed to be altogether appreciated by those in charge. In fact, it is stated that a deputy sheriff actually took the trouble to call upon the wife of the prominent merchant and ask her not to visit the girl again as she was not worthy of any attention whatever and the character of the lady herself would suffer by the continuance of her attentions! This statement was made by one of the ladies to a *Budget* reporter. The ladies are naturally indignant that one of their own sex, in the most delicate and critical of all human conditions, should thus be immured in a gloomy prison cell, without any of the comforts necessary at such times, the sympathy and aid of tender-hearted mothers and all necessary privacy and medical attendance. It is, therefore, only in accordance with the commonest dictates of humanity that the neglected girl should be sent to a hospital or a Magdalen asylum. It is infamous that she should remain where she is under the circumstances of the case, and we trust that some-

thing will be done to effect the desired change very soon.

To make the most of it her crime was altogether too paltry and insignificant to require the treatment she would necessarily receive in any common jail, while in her present condition.

The attention of the grand jury is called to this most extraordinary case. This is the wrong country for such doings.

From the same day in the *Astoria Daily Budget*:

If what has been reported to the *Budget* be true, it is little wonder that some of our boys are found in the middle of the road for hell. The example set them by men in official position is alone enough to demoralize and ruin them. If the committee of thirty would investigate some of the adultery cases and begin a weeding out in that direction, it would be a great thing for society and would doubtless save some of the wayward lads from the penitentiary and many defenseless girls from ruin. Let the eyes of the community be opened by throwing more light on the subject. 🍷

BLANCHE DAY

INQUEST AT ASTORIA, OREG ON THE 9TH, 16TH, & 31ST DAY OF JAN 1907

Aged 17 years 6 mo. 28 days.

We the undersigned Jurors sworn to inquire into the cause of death of Blanche Day, on oath do find: That said Blanche Day came from Seattle to Astoria in company with C. R. Fox. That they registered at the Merwyn Hotel as C. R. Fox and wife on the 4th day of Jan 1907 at 11 P.M., that on the 5th day of January the said Blanche Day became an inmate of the "Waldorf" Northwest Corner 8th and Astor St. and assigned Room 18 by Manager Julius Wilberg, that between 7:30 and 8 o'clock P.M. Jan. 6th 1907 she was taken ill with what the Medical testimony gives as opiate poisoning. At about 3:27 A.M. Jan 7th 1907 she was taken from the Waldorf to St. Marys Hospital when she died at 4 o'clock A.M. We further find that her age was 17 years 6 months and 27 days and further find that we are unable to determine, as to how or by when said opiate poison was administered, or what kind or quantity of opiate was used, we, however, do not believe it to be a case of suicide. We further find numerous severe burns on the body, caused as we are informed by the application of hot water bottles used in the treatment of the case, also bruises

on the limbs caused as we are informed by the application of hot water bottles used in the treatment of the case, also bruises on the limbs caused, as we are informed, by rough handling.

VERDICT OF JURY

We have endeavored to secure the attendance of C. R. Fox or Roy Fox the man who came to Astoria with deceased, and we have been informed by officials both County and City, that they have been unable to locate him. Our Foreman under our instructions has filed a criminal charge against said C Roy Fox, of inducing a minor to visit a house of Prostitution. We further recommend a full investigation of this case by the Honorable Circuit Judge and that a Grand Jury be called for that purpose.

Wm. C.A. Pohl, Coroner

NAMES OF JURORS

W.J. Barry, [Chief of Police and Son-in-law of Bridget Grant (mother and boss of a family of shanghaiers)]

Wm. Ross

A. G. Spexarth [Sold guns and sewing machines and did repairs to both]

P. Lawler

J. G. Meibohm

K. Osburn [Police Judge]

WITNESSES:

O. B. Estes, Astoria, Physician
R. J. Pilkington, Astoria, Physician
C. F. Wise, Astoria, Saloon Keeper
Fred Woods, Astoria, Barber
Myrtle McCready, Astoria, Dance
Girl at Waldorf
Julius Wilberg, Astoria, Manager,
Dance Hall
Grace Lawrence, Astoria, Dance Girl
at Waldorf, alias Lucille Vernon?,
Sister of Deceased
Charles Gammal, Chief of Police
Laura Green, Dance Girl at Waldorf

Josie A. Smith, Astoria, Manager,
Hotel Manager
Edith Redman, Astoria,
Chambermaid
Arthur Marks, Astoria, Express
driver, Sherman Transfer Co.
Thos. Linville, Astoria, Police officer
Elizabeth Darling, Astoria, Nurse
M. R. Pomeroy, Astoria, Sheriff 🦋

Blanche Day is buried at Greenwood Cemetery. A few years ago, John Goodenberger gave a talk about Blanche Day, to a large crowd of people at the Heritage Museum.

RUSSIAN ANNIE

EXAMINATION AT ASTORIA OREGON ON THE 27TH DAY OF FEB. 1909

Native of Oregon, aged 25 years
Deceased came to her death at the
Tyberg Saloon on 6th & Bond St. by
taking carbolic acid with suicidal
intent on Feb. 26th 09 — deceased
had been drinking for some time to
excess — had some trouble with her
lover — then went to Eagle Drug store
and bought some carbolic acid. On her
way home she bid several of her friends
goodbye and said she was going on a
long trip never to come back. She was
discovered just after she had taken the
poison and Dr. Finch was called but
could do nothing for her.

J. A. Gilbaugh, Coroner

WITNESSES:

A. A. Finch, Astoria, physician

J. E. Kuivala, Astoria, bartender
R. Thomasson, Astoria

INVENTORY:

Two diamond earrings or screws,
one opal ring – ten cents in money
and all personal effects consisting of
wearing apparel and of little value.
Delivered all property to sister, Mrs.
Hilda Saari.

THE MORNING ASTORIAN, FEB. 28, 1909

BY CARBOLIC ACID—

Annie Arnet [sp], a woman of the
lower end of town, more familiarly
known as “Russian Annie,” last night
drank a large quantity of carbolic acid
and died in a few minutes. She has rela-
tives in this community. No particular
cause for the deed is known.

Annie Arnet was buried at Seal River, WA. 🦋

THE WASHERWOMAN

*The washerwoman stands all day at the tub,
And washes the clothes with a steady rub,
She splashes the suds all over the floor,
And sweeps them out thru the open door.
She works all day from the rise of sun,
And yet the washing is never done,
Because as soon as she gets thru
Somebody else has washing to do.
When evening comes, (as it always must)
She sits down, with a sigh of disgust,
And wonders if it can be right
That a body should feel so tired at night.
After she eats her evening meal,
And twilight shadows begin to steal,
Upstairs to bed she will slowly creep
And dreading the morning, go to sleep.*

BETHENIA OWENS-ADAIR

After divorcing her lazy and abusive husband, Bethenia Owens (Hill) became a washer woman to support herself and her son. It was one of the few occupations a woman without resources could have. She was able to break out of poverty by returning to school and eventually earning a medical degree, becoming one of the earliest women physicians in the Northwest.

THE 1933 TILLAMOOK BURN

by Don Malarkey

MY PARENTS, LEO and Helen Malarkey, had a winterized cabin on the Jack Bay Dairy farm along the Nehalem River near Vine Maple. From the time I was seven years old, Mother, my older brother John and younger brother Bob would spend the summer. My dad would be there for the weekend, leave Astoria and return Friday evening.

John and I would spend all our time fishing for cutthroat trout, crawfishing for weekend parties, trapping chipmunks for a big case we had and I swam a lot.

The summer that I was twelve, my brother John was bored with what we did and spent most of the time with my father in Astoria, probably to play with Brenham Van Dusen who incidentally also, had a cabin on the Bay ranch about 150 feet from ours. My dad was worried that I would soon follow John's footsteps. Unbeknownst to me, Dad went to Jack Bay and asked him to hire me to help the dairy foreman Einar Glaser with the milking, my dad to pay me through Jack Bay.

I jumped at the chance to be doing something with Einar, who was Jack Bay's nephew. Einar was the most powerful man I had ever known. He

would make Charles Atlas look like a weakling.

I would go to the dairy at 5:30 A.M. for the morning milking and again in the late afternoon. I primarily cleaned the barn, did stripping of cows after the milking machines were removed. Did some feeding but generally just hung around Einar.

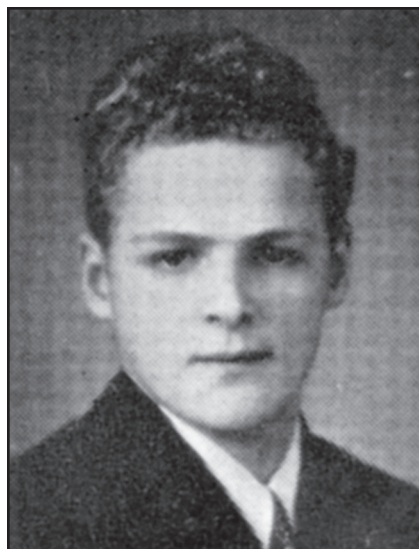
Every Wednesday, we would head to what is now Elsie to deliver milk to two mess halls. One was for loggers, and the other a road construction crew. At the loggers' mess hall, I would always be given a cold glass of milk and a cookie by the cook who may have been Oney Kelly (Camberg).

Leaving the mess halls, we would go down the Nehalem to the Tillamook County line where we would leave milk on an open-roofed structure to be picked up later. Two logging companies working up the river would have horseback riders pick the milk up. One of the companies was Schetky Logging, and I think the other was Moler Creek Logging. We did this again on Saturday.

In late August that summer, a huge fire had broken out west of Forest Grove. We had had an extremely hot summer, perfect conditions for a large

fire aided by strong east winds. Several days later, Einar and I had made our usual Wednesday delivery. We were in the loggers' mess hall where I was consuming my usual milk and cookie when a farmer ran in and said everyone has to get out of here and help save the Gronnell farm. Under fire conditions, there are few options, so Einar took me with him. I, of course, could not fight the fire on the perimeter of the farm. They gave me the water buckets, and I would stay by a watercourse by the house. When a fire was started near the edge of the timber, a logger or farmer would yell, and the twelve-year-old water boy would run to their aid. I did this all day thrilled at this great event that I was part of. There were no phones; my parents did not know where I was. Einar got me back to our cabin at about ten o'clock. Dad gave me a sandwich and had me crawl right into my bunk. About an hour later, Dad woke me and said, "Son, we have to get right out of here; put anything you want into the little trailer" we towed behind the car. I put my fishing and camping things in the trailer, forgot my new bow given to me by Louis Jacobson, a half Indian. I looked up at the sky and saw flaming limbs, flying over the Douglas Fir grove where our cabin was.

Dad drove the car out into the middle of a just-harvested, one hundred acre field and parked the car near the empty, large hay wagon for the night. I was watching, wide-eyed, the show of my life to be repeated in Normandy.



DON MALARKEY.

ASTORIA HIGH SCHOOL'S 1939 ZEPHYRUS.

About 3:00 a.m., there was a huge fireball that exploded into the air where the Douglas fir was. It was the cabin. Through the night, fiery limbs kept sailing through the sky eventually reaching three-quarters of a mile to light old snags on "Red Bluff" across the Nehalem. In the late 40s, I stood with Bill Hollidine, resident forester, and showed him where the Tillamook Burn section of Clatsop County ended. The fire that had descended on the Gronnell farm had traveled thirty-five miles overnight. About 8:00 a.m. the farm road had been cleared of any debris, so we headed to Astoria with my being able to say I was a witness to the most impressive event of my life, but not the last.

My parents had another cabin several years later. However, I was not out there as I had gone to work at fifteen



DON MALARKEY DURING A VISIT
TO THE HERITAGE MUSEUM

on a salmon seining ground located at Jim Crow sands fifteen miles upriver from Astoria. I continued in this work until I graduated from Astoria High. However, I had attended Star of the Sea for eleven years. I stayed fishing into the fall and when finished went to work for Pillsbury Flour Mill, which I did in the fall of 1941.

After one year of my college, I found myself as a paratrooper in the 101st Airborne Division. I married my college sweetheart in June of 1948. I

had taken a job at Lovell Auto Co., so my wife and I moved to Astoria. My picture was in the paper in joining Lovell Auto.

A couple of weeks later Neil Morfitt and Bob Lovell called me into their office to tell me an old man on the showroom floor wanted to see me. I walked up to him, and I said: "I am Don Malarkey." He held out his hand and said, "I am Ben Gronnell. I have been looking for you for fifteen years to thank you for fighting the fire on my farm that day in August." There was a tear in his eye as there is in mine every time I relate this gallant gesture by a remarkable man who remembered me.

My Freshman year at the University of Oregon, I had to take speech class that mandated each student to stand before the class and recite a poem or anything else from memory that took at least five minutes. The poem I memorized was "Gunga Din" by Rudyard Kipling. When I finished, two Freshmen students in the front row were crying. When I recite it, Gunga Din was a little twelve-year-old boy fighting the fire on the Ben Gronnell Farm. ☺

Not long after Don Malarkey saved the house of Ben Gronnell from burning, he joined the basketball team at Star of the Sea, becoming one of the team's best players. Although the team members were not as big or as old as their competitors, they made a showing that impressed the sports audience. The following stories were pieced from old undated newspapers.

"STAR OF THE SEA LOSES OUT IN HARD BATTLE" (1937)

A gallant band of midget basketball players from the Star of the Sea high school of Astoria lost 17-23 to the tall Columbia Preps and were eliminated from the Oregon Catholic high school basketball championship tournament in the opening round Saturday afternoon but not before they displayed what one Portland sportswriter described as the 'most courageous exhibition' of the day...The Astoria quintet is composed entirely of freshmen with but one exception. The showing which these boys made proved one of the highlights of the tournament, for a while the entire Astoria quintet only grossed a little over 300 pounds, the Columbia Preps were tall and experienced.

Star of the Sea grabbed a 7-6 lead in the first quarter due to the spectacular shooting of Donald Malarkey, guard, who tallied the first eight points for his team. The Astorians fell behind 11-10 at the half, and in the final periods, the height advantage enjoyed by the Columbia Preps began to tell, particularly when Malarkey was

ousted from the game on four personals midway in the final period.

The Star of the Sea team earned the designation of 'Singer's Midgets' during the tournament because the players were by far the smallest of any from the nine teams competing in the tourney. [Scores: Ruljancich 3, Jalbert 0, Turina 2, Malarkey 11, Hope 1.]

Although the team failed to get out of the first round of the high school basketball tournament, the Star of the Sea team won the 1937 sportsmanship trophy of the Oregon Catholic high school basketball tournament. The one for sportsmanship and leadership went to Star of the Sea probably because of the brave but clean battle put up by the diminutive players.

Don Malarkey, a guard for the Star of the Sea, was placed on the all-state second team selected at the tourney.

A few days later:

"STAR OF THE SEA FIVE BACK FROM TRIP" (1937)

"Star of the Sea high school's basketball team returned from Portland, Monday with the sportsmanship trophy of the Oregon Catholic high school basketball tournament in its possession even though the scrappy little team did fail to get by the first round of the tourney, the Star of the Sea team in its one game proved to be one of the sensations of the tournament.

A 1939 Newspaper Story

Ed Fitzpatrick, director of Oregon's fifth annual Catholic prep school basketball tournament, set at the University of Portland next

month, can't promise any more episodes where water boys steal the show but does predict a new record entry list for his 1939 meet.

Ten teams will take part in the event this year, with Catholic quintets from all over the state coming to Portland for the struggle.

Most of the schools are small—Columbia prep with around 200 students is the biggest—and squads are limited. They make it up in fight, however, and a historic occasion in the tournament's annals is the occasion on which little Star-of-the-Sea of Astoria found itself with only four eligible players left in a semi-final game. A half-pint water boy dashed into the fray at that point and completely stole the show.

Columbia prep, although the biggest school in the tournament, has won only once, and that last year. St. Stephen's carried off the title in 1935, while St. Mary's of Eugene dominated things in 1936 and 1937.

"ASTORIA TURNS TABLES ON ST. MARY'S OF BEAVERTON" (1939)

Astoria, Jan. 11—Last Sunday the Star of the Sea hoopsters from Astoria moved in on St. Mary's of Beaverton, determined to wreak vengeance on Father Carberry's quintuplets. When the Beaverton boys played in Astoria, they took the game 26-19. The Astorians were going to turn the tables this time and were successful, the game ending in their favor 23-17.

Three days before, the Seamen had played what probably was the only 'no contest' game in the history of basketball in Clatsop

County. They thought they had taken the unbeaten Warrenton team, a favorite in the Clatsop County "B" league with the narrow margin of a 22-23 score. Then minutes later, differences in the records of the scorekeepers were discovered, and the game had finally to be called "no contest."

In moving in on the St. Mary's boys, the Astoria team was going to make sure that this time, history would be made only in taking the game. The Catholic quint from down the river took the lead in the beginning of the game and kept it throughout. At half time Beaverton trailed 10-17; and with close checking and good straight basketball, the Astorians were able to keep that lead till the final whistle. This makes only two losses for Beaverton, one to St. Mary's of Eugene, 23-19; and one to Astoria 23-17.

PLAYERS FOR STAR OF THE SEA: J. RULJANCICH 8F, HOPE 1F, J. HEALY 2C, MALARKEY 9G, JALBERT 2G

In two games played another week (one in the old Columbia club floor in Astoria), Westport beat Star of the Sea 24-11, with Malarkey making 4 points, the highest for the team. Earlier in the week, Star of the Sea had lost to St. Mary's in Beaverton with Healy scoring 8 points and Malarkey, 2nd highest at 2 points.

Although Don Malarkey attended Star of the Sea throughout most of his high school years, he graduated from Astoria High School in 1939.

WORLD WAR II

The spirit Don Malarkey showed playing basketball for Star of the Sea was fully evident to readers of Stephen Ambrose's 1992 book *Band of Brothers* which was made into the ten-part television mini-series *Band of Brothers*. Don's first-person recollections, and that of other members of the U.S. Army's E (Easy Company) 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, parachuted into France and by the end of the first day of conflict earned the Bronze Star for his heroism. He went on to earn many more awards in battle. A listing is online on Wikipedia.

Twenty-one years after Don Malarkey's remarkable performance on the 1937 Star of the Sea basketball team, Star of the Sea won the Class B state title, and Don shared in the school's celebration.

STATE B CHAMPS GREETED BY 1000 – MARCH 18, 1958

Star of the Sea high's state basketball champions came home in triumph Sunday afternoon as more than 1000 wildly cheering fans greeted them at a hastily arranged reception in the school gymnasium.

Several hundred fans, aug-

mented by a detachment of the American Legion drum and bugle corps, met the ball club and Coach Dale Andrich just south of the Youngs Bay bridge on highway 101, with posted-decorated cars and much horn-tooting. Falling in behind the team, the procession of more than 100 cars wound through the downtown district before going to the school, where a confetti-tossing mob of happy fans congratulated team and coach before permitting them to go into the gym for the reception.

MALARKEY MC

County Commissioner Don Malarkey, master of ceremonies for the reception, announced there would be no school today—it's St. Patrick's Day as well as a holiday to celebrate the capture of Class B State title... Capt. Tom Hiestand introduced squad members including Bill Hammer, Don Leader, Jim Varner, Jim Hubbell, Greg Moore, John Zorich, Nick Zorich, Dave Moore, Phil Sullivan, and Manager Mike Moore. 🍀

Stephen Ambrose's book Band of Brothers is not yet on the CCHS Research Library's shelves. We hope someone will donate a copy in memory of Don Malarkey who died in Salem on September 30, 2017, at the age of ninety-six.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

the Editor

The 1959 and 1960 classes will soon be celebrating their 60th High School anniversaries. In commemoration, we have borrowed photos from AHS stu-

dents, Karen Mellin (class of 1960) and Gerald (Jerry) Olson (Class of 1959), for a sampling of events from that time. Both are residents of Astoria. 🌊

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN MELLIN



KAREN MELLIN IN COSTUME FOR THE 1955 LEWIS AND CLARK
SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN ASTORIA.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN MELLIN



PAJAMA PARTY AT JUDY GLASCOE'S HOUSE. MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1960.

left to right, back row: MARILYN JACOBSON, BECKY STANLEY, BECKY JOHNSON, JEAN OSTROM, MERRILY JACOBSON, UNKNOWN. middle row: MID MOREFIT, UNKNOWN, JAN ISAACSON, JOCELYN MADDOX, MILLIE HARTSTROM. front row: JUDITH SIMONSON, KAREN MELLIN, AND JUDY GLASCOE.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN MELLIN



ASTORIA HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS JUDITH SIMONSON, KAREN PETERSON, AND KAREN MELLIN IN THE FALL OF 1958 IN THE NEW SCHOOL.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KAREN MELLIN



ASTORIA HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING RALLY AND BONFIRE, OCTOBER, 1959.



THE FIGHTING FISHERMEN TAKE TO THE FIELD IN 1959.
GERALD (JERRY) OLSON IS ONE OF THOSE AT THE RIGHT, CHARGING ONTO GYRO FIELD.

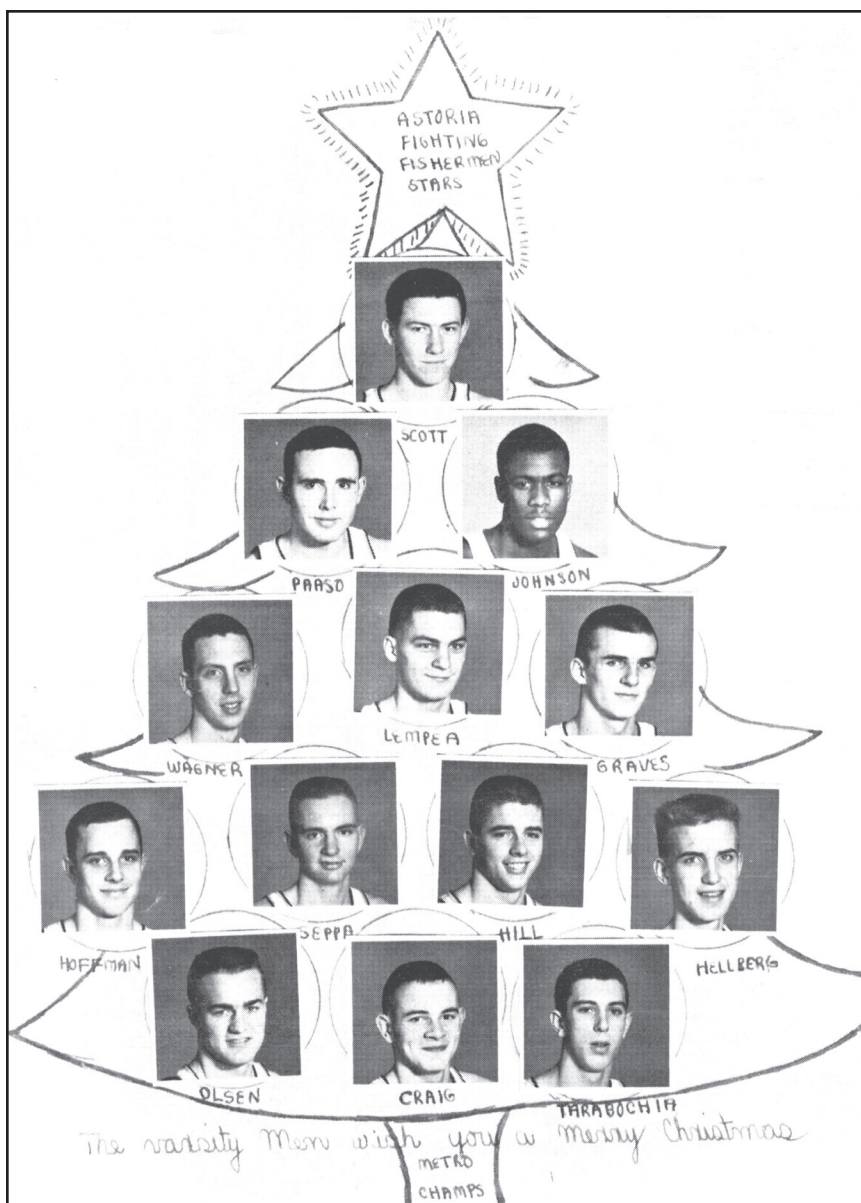
PHOTO COURTESY OF GERALD OLSON



A BASKETBALL GAME IN THE NEW AHS GYM IN 1954.



ASTORIA HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM VS. SPRINGFIELD, DECEMBER 18, 1959 AT ASTORIA. MIKE TARABOCHIA IS #30 IN THE FOREGROUND.



ASTORIA FIGHTING FISHERMEN STARS. METRO CHAMPS, 1959.

"THE VARSITY MEN WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS."

top to bottom and left to right: GORDON SCOTT, BRIAN PAASO, JAMES JOHNSON, JOHN WAGNER, BARRY LEMPEA, BRUCE HOFFMAN, DICK SEPPA, LARRY HILL, DICK HELLBERG, JERRY OLSEN (SP), JEFF CRAIG, AND MIKE TARABOCHIA.



THE CHURCH HILL BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM, CA. EARLY 1930S.

kneeling, left to right: AL "BAY" SIMONSON, JOHN "HANNI" SEEBORG, ARNOLD SEEBORG, WALT SIMONSON, CLIFF ANET, ARVID SEEBORG, UNKNOWN. back row, left to right: ROY SEEBORG, BOBBY ANET, ERNEST KOVEN, ELLIS KOVEN, WALLY JOHANSEN. BOBBY ANET LED ASTORIA HIGH SCHOOL TO TWO OREGON STATE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 1934 AND 1935. AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, ANET PLAYED ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM FOR THREE YEARS, WAS CAPTAIN FOR TWO YEARS, AND LED HIS TEAM TO ITS ONLY BASKETBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1939. WALLY JOHANSEN ALSO STARRER ON THE AHS BASKETBALL TEAM AND PLAYED WITH ANET AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON.

A precocious youth was asked by a Portland attorney on the streets of Astoria yesterday if there was any place in the town where a man could get his boots blacked? "No, sir," was the prompt answer," but you can get your eye blacked most any where about here." August 14, 1873, *Tri-Weekly Astorian*.

THE BLIND PIG

We recently got a query from Petteri Puhakka in Finland looking for information on a man who, at the turn of the century, had made a series of trips to Astoria and back to Finland that was puzzling. The family wanted to know what the reason was. The usual resources were suggested: the newspaper index at the Astoria Public Library and their microfilms, the Historic Oregon Newspapers website and the Oregon State Archives website; then, out of curiosity, I decided to see what I could find. Apparently his frequent trips had something to do with a "blind pig." Also known as a "speakeasy" and a "blind tiger," a blind pig is a business that sold legal items in the front part of the store and illegal items in the back. In this particular case, the man had a cigar store located at 1352 Franklin in

Astoria, now the north side of Marine Drive a few doors west of what is now the CCHS's Fire Museum. In the back, he sold alcoholic liquor without a license. He then moved the store to 1361 Franklin, across the street from the previous store, and then moved again, a few doors to the east, from about 1906 to 1910. This was the first area settled by the Finns when they came to Astoria, the area around Home Bakery. Apparently, he was not going to let anyone tell him what he could or could not sell and continued to sell alcoholic liquor without a license in spite of warnings and fines. The court then gave him a fine so large that he must have thought prospects were better in Finland and left the country for good. 🍷

—The Editor



HELP US TO IDENTIFY THE MEMBERS OF
THE 1959 RAINBOW INSTALLATION HELD
AT THE MASONIC LODGE IN ASTORIA.
KNOWN MEMBERS ARE JUDY GLASCOE,
KAREN MELLIN, AND JAN ISAACSON,
WORTHY ADVISOR.